



REQUIREMENTS TO FINISH A BASEMENT

BASED ON THE 2006 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE (IRC)

A building permit is required before starting construction

WINDOWS and GLAZING

Basement rooms must have windows glazing area equal to 8% of the floor area. One-half of the required glazing area is required to be openable.

Where windows are not adequate to supply a space being finished with the required glazing area, then mechanical ventilation and artificial light must be provided as follows (Section R-303.1):

- a. Mechanical ventilation requirements of 0.35 air change per hour in the room or a whole house mechanical ventilation system capable of supplying outside air of 15 cubic feet per minute per bedroom
- b. Artificial light producing average illumination of 6 footcandles over the area of the room at a height of 30 inches above the floor

Bathrooms or toilet rooms shall have glazing area in windows of not less than 3 square feet, of which one-half must be openable. Bathroom windows are not required when artificial light and mechanical ventilation of 50 cfm for intermittent ventilation or 20 cfm for continuous ventilation. Ventilation from the bathroom space shall be exhausted directly to the outside as per Section R-303.3.

EMERGENCY ESCAPE and RESCUE OPENING

When an area is to be finished, emergency egress to the outside must be provided by a door or window with a net clear opening of 5 square feet (from one sash) having the minimum clear dimensions as required by Section R-310. A bulkhead door is acceptable as provided in Section R-311.5.8.2.

REQUIRED HEATING

All habitable spaces (sleeping, living, cooking, and dining areas) shall be provided with heating facilities capable of maintaining a room temperature of 68°F at a point 3 feet above the floor as per Section R-303.8.

REQUIRED INSULATION

The exterior walls above grade must have a minimum R-value of R-21 and exterior walls below grade must have a minimum R-value of R-11.

COMBUSTION and VENTILATION AIR for FUEL BURNING APPLIANCES

Provisions for combustion/ventilation air are required if the heating equipment is or will be located in a confined space. A confined space is one that has less volume than 50 cubic feet per 1,000 BTU's of all the appliances' input ratings. (See Chapter 17 for further details and particulars.)

FRAMING LUMBER

Framing lumber in contact with concrete shall be pressure treated or a naturally durable species.

MINIMUM CEILING HEIGHTS

Habitable rooms shall have a ceiling height of not less than 7 feet. Beams and girders spaced not less than 4 feet on center may project not more than 6 inches below the required ceiling height.

BASEMENT PLUMBING

Basement plumbing fixtures may require a backwater valve. The backwater valve is required whenever the elevation of the manhole in the street is higher than the flood rim of the fixtures.

NASHUA BUILDING SAFETY DEPARTMENT

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